

# RES13-019

Wilmington, Delaware  
April 4, 2013

#3803

Sponsors:

Council  
President  
Gregory

Council  
Members  
D. Brown  
M. Brown  
Shabazz  
Williams  
Dorsey Walker  
Walsh

Co-Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Cabrera

**WHEREAS**, Wilmington City Council deems it befitting and proper that the New Castle County Courthouse located at 500 North King Street, Wilmington, Delaware (the "Courthouse") be named the "Leonard L. Williams Justice Center" in honor of Judge Leonard L. Williams' innumerable contributions to the City of Wilmington and to New Castle County throughout his life; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leonard L. Williams was a civil rights advocate, an academic scholar, and a philanthropist; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Williams was one of the first African-American students to attend the University of Delaware and was the fifth African-American to be admitted to the Delaware Bar; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Williams, under the tutelage of his mentor Louis L. Redding, Esquire, worked on landmark civil rights cases to abolish segregation in education, housing, employment and public accommodations in the State of Delaware; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington, on February 4, 1998, as the legal owner of the land parcel known as 500 North King Street, properly executed

and recorded with the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds a Declaration of Restriction thereon; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of Judge Williams' lifelong service to the community, the Declaration of Restriction required that any courthouse built at 500 North King Street be named the "Leonard L. Williams Justice Center"; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington, as grantor, and the State of Delaware, as grantee, executed an Agreement for Sale of the 500 North King Street property on or about July 22, 1998 *subject to* the terms of the Declaration of Restriction; and

**WHEREAS**, in conveyance of the said property, a deed was properly recorded on September 30, 1998, with the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leonard L. Williams, the Delaware civil rights pioneer, retired Municipal Court Judge and esteemed public servant, died peacefully on March 2, 2013.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that City Council respectfully urges the State of Delaware, as grantee and legal and equitable owner of the Courthouse at 500 North King

Street, Wilmington, Delaware, to, with great haste, satisfy its agreed upon obligation of naming the New Castle County Courthouse the "Leonard L. Williams Justice Center" in honor of Judge Leonard L. Williams.

Passed by City Council,  
April 4, 2013

ATTEST: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 3<sup>rd</sup>  
day of April, 2013

Thomas P. Camery  
Assistant City Solicitor